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# Alice in License-Renewal Land: Through the NON-Looking Glass

David Lochbaum Nuclear Safety Engineer dlochbaum@ucsusa.org March 29, 2000 March 5, 1946: Winston Churchill talks about the Iron Curtain

54 years later, passport is needed to leave teh United States of America and journey behind the Ironic Curtain into NRC License-Renewal Land

#### Time Line 1

1995 - NRC revises license renewal reule to eliminate requirement for applicant to prove confirmance with current design and licensing bases

1996 - TIME reports that Millstone operated for many, many, years outside its design bases.

1997 - Nine US nuclear plants closed entire year due to design and licensing bases violations.

2000 - NRC charges forward with 1995 rule, pretending that 1996-1997 did not occur

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application

#### Time Line 2

04/07/98: BG&E filed for application 07/08/98: 30-day public comment period opened 08/07/98: 30-day public comment period ended 08/20/98: BG&E reported receiving only 5 of 37 request for additional information from NRC 09/17/98: BG&E submits first of at least 47 supplements to applications 02/04/99: BG&E submits 13-page errata sheet for

## Time Lag

Nov. 99 - NEI requests meeting with NRC on shortening the review process

12/6/99 - NRC conducts meeting requested by NEI

12/6/99 - UCS requests meeting with NRC on safety issues of review process; NRC says they might be able to squeeze in a meeting in August 2000

### Time for a Change

- 1 NRC cannot ignore reality of Millstone, Salem, D C Cook, Vermont Yankee, et al and continue to blindly assume conformance with design and licensing bases
- 2 NRC cannot "give" public 30 days to review an incomplete and inaccurate application
- 3 NRC cannot continue to put economic viability of the nuclear industry ahead of safety